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Only Two Weeks Remain to Apply for Strengthening Communities Grants through ARRA

Local organizations have just 14 more days to apply for grants through the Strengthening Communities Fund. These federal dollars, made available as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will help non-profit organizations provide services to more low-income families. The deadline for applications is July 7.

"This funding is going to help non-profits and community agencies give extra support to those Wisconsin families that need it during tough times," Department of Children and Families Secretary Reggie Bicha said. "These community organizations play a critical role in helping families achieve stability. I urge local governments and organizations to take advantage of this great opportunity to serve their communities."

The Strengthening Communities Fund provides federal dollars for two separate initiatives. The Non-Profit Capacity Building Program will provide up to \$1 million over two years to help organizations enhance their ability to meet the needs of low-income families. Non-profit organizations as well as local and tribal governments are eligible to apply for these funds.

The State, Local and Tribal Capacity Building Program will provide up to \$250,000 over a two-year period to increase capacity at government offices that work with community, faith-based and non-profit organizations to support low-income communities. Local and tribal governments as well as schools and school districts may apply for these grants.

The program will give agencies more opportunities to assist families in maintaining employment, earning higher wages, finding quality jobs and accessing benefits and tax credits.

All grants are competitively awarded. Organizations are required to generate 20 percent of the funding from non-federal sources.

Grants from the Strengthening Communities Fund are awarded through the Administration of Children and Families. For more information on applying for grants, please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/recovery.html>.

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